Illegal Arms and Drug Market in Karimganj, Assam

2184. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain fundamentalists backed by Pakistan have been running an illegal arms and drug market in the Barak Valley of Karimganj district of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the smuggling of arms and drugs and use of foreign currency in the Barak Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No such information is available with the Government.

(c) To check the sumggling of arms and drugs, Government is taking various steps which include implementing a project for fencing the border, introduction of night vision equipment, strengthening border, guarding by reducing gaps between border outposts, deployment of additional forces, increased patrolling etc.

Illegal Migrants from Various Countries

2185. SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of illegal migrants from various countries to India, as per the latest estimates;

(b) how many illegal migrants have been deported in the five years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(c) in how many cases, prosecutions have been launched State-wise figures and convictions secured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The problem of illegal migration into the country is mainly from Bangladesh. As per reports, a large number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh are staying in the country.

(b) 667 illegal migrants from Bangladesh have been deported in the last five years.

(c) Action, including prosecution, against suspected illegal migrants is taken by the State Governments/Police concerned and as such data of prosecutions/convictions of illegally staying foreigners are not maintained centrally.

Increase in Consumption of Alcohol

2186. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of alcohol by students and teenagers are alarmingly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of increase of percentage of alcohol drinking by students/teenagers in the country for the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the existing laws are in sufficient to prevent the sale of alcohol to teenagers; and

(d) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to prevent the sale of alcohol in public places alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the consumption of alcohol and drugs within the age group of 12-17 years has remained around 2% of the total addicts who availed the services through the Non Government Organisations during the period 1998—2001.

(c) and (d) As the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of the intoxicant liquor falls under entry 8 of the State List to the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the State Governments are required to take necessary steps to prevent sale of alcohol in public places.

Smuggling of Cattle on Indo-Bangladesh Border

†2187. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRIMOTILALVORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.